

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 13, 2013

IN ATTENDANCE: Michelle Alm, Chael Wyper, Brenda Kuryk, Andrea Desjardins, Bev LaPeare, Charlene Gosling, Jodi Gingras, Elisa Hides, Amanda Couture, Jeff Kearns

Chairperson: Michelle Alm

Secretary: Andrea Desjardins

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

The minutes from the March 18, 2013 meeting were circulated and read. Michelle Alm made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Brenda Kuryk seconded the motion. All in favour. Carried.

Trustee Report

Bev LaPeare gave the Trustee's Report. The Report will be attached to the Minutes.

A parent brought up a concern with the poor condition of the parking lot. Chael has submitted requests. Maintenance is stretched right now. Bev will take our concerns to the Board.

Principal's Report

It is time again to work on our professional learning plan. It is a 3 year plan in its third year. The Value Added School Review has given us direction as to things we need to work on. We should look at priority areas mentioned on page 6. We looked at VASR, looked at the priorities out of that and set 3 main initiatives. We find they address almost all of the outcomes and hope it will be cohesive.

The first one is huge – a universal learning environment. This takes what we know about the science of teaching and puts it into one place and drives what should be happening in classrooms such as targeting instruction to address competencies rather than memorizing. We need to teach students ways of gathering information, organizing it and communicating it.

The second is specialized instruction – look at moving to a model where we have specialists teaching grades rather than one teacher teaching all. Core subjects are covered but we need to look at other subjects.

The third is consistency. We have implemented various programs (eg ROAR) and it is great for the year but then things change and the problem is consistency – teachers change, etc. We are looking at a division person and targeting 7 Habits of Highly Effective People... as well as there is a Leader in Me for kids.

These are 3 of our Priority Initiatives – How do they fit into Rockyview's plan?

We need to look at building modifications including the fact that not all classes have enough working outlets, should we disband the computer lab as we have the portable MAC lab. We would then turn that into another classroom. We could turn one class into a science lab room as it has sinks and hard floor. The band room has requested portable walls so that we can break the big space into smaller spaces to have flexibility with that room for break out spaces as needed.

Funding for Assistant Principal – It will be across the board within Rockyview for each school to have two administrators per school.

We need to be rethinking some things: There is a currently a huge class in grade 9 with 33 students leaving and 20+ students for grade 1. The Division funds by number of students. We are down significantly on funding. We have to look at a lot of different ideas for funding. We are losing one teacher. We will look at split classes – we may split for some subjects and not for others that are a continuum (eg math). If we get more students, this may not be an issue, but we need to prepare for it. There are benefits and drawbacks in any scenario. It is about creating effective working environments to meet the needs of the students.

To make it all better (and cooler), we got our technology upgrade. The MAC cart has 20 MACs – we got 5 more. We got another cart with 25 iPads. We are looking at class set of iPads as there are some apps that work well for learning.

Chael asked if anyone has heard of an app that will rewrite text to different learning levels? No one had.

We need to decide if grade 7's next year get any technology. The life span on a computer is low and it is expensive to repair to get 4 years out of it. Students will have the opportunity to buy them out. Acers were funded by parent council. MACs were funded by Rockyview.

When the school owns the computer, we can look at what they are doing on their computer. If they are personally owned, we run into FOIP issues. When school owns, we can confiscate it. There is no expectation of privacy when school owned. In high school, they bring their own devices.

New report card – when power school came out last year we did not go to a power school based report card because it was brand new and there are always glitches and bumps with a new roll out. Chael did not want us to go down that road. We were going to this year but the report generating engine broke down, and we then had some additional issues. So we decided to stay with the individual written report card. Next year we are going to embrace the power school based report card. It is a slightly different format from what we have but it is similar.

Staffing changes – Mr. Kim is leaving. Danielle Ischenko will be joining us from Ecole Airdrie Middle School. She will be doing band and music. When she was at the Airdrie school, they had a very powerful program.

Assistant principal – We do not know who this will be or what their role will look like. We are likely losing Mr. Klassen – resource teacher in PEAK. A part time Assistant Principal would also be a part time resource teacher.

Mrs. Stevens is leaving. She took on a position in Airdrie (where she lives). Mrs. Sefton will be going to grade 3. That is the plan now, but it will depend on whether we do splits or how things look for next year.

A Parent asked about a glee club. Chael asks the kids each year what they would like to see as options. There is a small but vocal group that would like to see a glee club. We cannot run options unless we have the appropriate level of participation.

The furniture in the conference room has been donated, as well as a coffee perk for volunteer teas, etc. Thanks to Char for finding that for us.

Old Business

BVAS funding was deferred. Cost is \$1000 per year for skating, pancake breakfast, Xmas concert etc. Need to pick that up as we put it off in the fall until we had our casino and received the money.

Casino – we are expecting approx \$40,000. We are seeing less money and more time in between casino availability. We need to have more planning with teachers with respect to funding requests so that we can plan more and use our money wisely and fairly. We plan to still continue with swim lessons, Accelerated Reading, etc. Given the low volunteer ratio at casino, that sends the message that parents want a user based system.

End of school fun day will be the last Wednesday with hot dogs, watermelon and fun stuff – Char will organize volunteers.

Welcome Back BBQ will be organized by parent council but funded by the school.

We think we need to look at having a parent as Classroom Reps. For example, maybe to help with getting volunteers for the Casino. How can we get more volunteers?

We need to get the teachers more involved with council. Maybe Parent Reps can help with this.

We would like to get a community liaison involved with our board. This would be someone within the community who would attend our meetings and share our information and our events with the community. Can we advertise in rec centre newsletter, seniors centre, etc.? Bev says Rolly might be interested in something like that. Have Jamie Stevens mention it when their class head to seniors centre.

Grade 9 Farewell celebration is being organized. Judy Preete has taken this on and will use a portion of the recycling money for this. The students were asked what they wanted and they preferred something low key, not a dance or anything. Likely a BBQ. A parent is maybe looking at organizing an end of the year party done by parents. Kim Hart and Jamie Stevens are on the committee.

Tabling Professional Learning for Parents until September.

Reminders

Langdon Bottle Depot – can donate your bottle money to Indus School
School Merchandise is always available
Hot Lunch referral – if another school signs up, we get referral money

Hot Lunch is now every week. Some parents requested it so we are doing it as a trial. We have been given a discount on our cost for hot lunch. Same price for parents so it is making more money for us.

We are open to other lunch ideas other than Indus Arena. We could look at McDonalds, Subway, etc. but would need a company or a parent to drive it out. Jodi can put it into the computer system but can outsource other places. Indus Arena would also probably be open if we had ideas of other options. Indus Arena has now lowered our costs so we would like to continue to support locally. Let's present that we want input on hot lunch.

Jodi Gingras would like to phase out of being the Hot Lunch Coordinator. We are actively looking for a new hot lunch co-coordinator. Jodi would stay on to teach someone the ropes but she will be out of the school in 2 years. We have some consistent volunteers for delivering lunches. Things are fairly streamlined so it would be easy.

Dress Code

Distributed

Treasurer's Report

Financials in general account at Mountain View Credit Union – combined them together

Fundraising earned us \$6000 this year – Epicure, Ten Thousand Villages, WestJet, Pointsettia.

Costs:

\$325 merchandise

\$4200 Hot lunches. Big lump sum of payments in right now that have not been paid out yet, so look high

\$600 staff appreciation week

\$418 Back to school BBQ in September 2013 that was funded by Parent Council.

\$1991 swimming

Scotia casino account pretty much depleted with accelerate reading payment
Scotia general pretty much depleted and all at Mountainview now

Budget for next year

\$1000 hot lunch

\$7000 from fundraising

Funding requests looking at the about the same as last year

How do we get people more engaged in parent council? Is there a better way to reach people? How do we get them to come out to meetings? Some suggestions were:

Do a label to put into agendas reminding about the meetings.
Email out on day of
Incentives for parents to attend
Incentives for the classroom that has the most parents in attendance

Fundraising options for next year. Let's do what gives us the most bang for our buck. Pointsettias do not make us enough money for the work involved. Epicure did well as you could do it online and had more options than just the dip sets. WestJet was a great money maker. Ten Thousand Villages did not make us much money but the people that were there loved it. It is a good consciousness type of fundraiser and was not a lot of work to do. Char would like to keep this.

September is not a great time as parents are dolling out a lot of money.

Epicure combined with Tupperware and Ten Thousand Villages in November
Raffle at the Christmas Concert made us money in a short amount of time

There is a company that provides grocery products that they deliver to school. Jodi said Sue had talked about it. Jeff knows about it and we can maybe look into it.

Food fundraisers are easy fundraisers and are good money makers. A lot of other organizations do these in the fall. We could look at doing this another time of year. And by then people have used up their stock (eg Coco Brooks)

Could do a Tupperware table at back to school BBQ really highlighting snack/lunch containers.

Board Positions

Nominations and positions for 2013-2014 year remain the same from 2012-2013:

Chair – Michelle Alm
Vice Chair –Brenda Kuryk
Secretary –Andrea Desjardins
Treasurer – Jeff Kearns
Hot Lunch Coordinator – Jodi Gingras- will stay and we will actively seek a co-coordinator
Fundraising/Special Events Coordinator – Char Gosling
Jane of All trades – Amanda Couture

All nominations were by acclimation.

Signing authority – stays the same.

There is no change to our Bylaws.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Next meeting September 23 at 6:30 pm.

Chairperson

Secretary